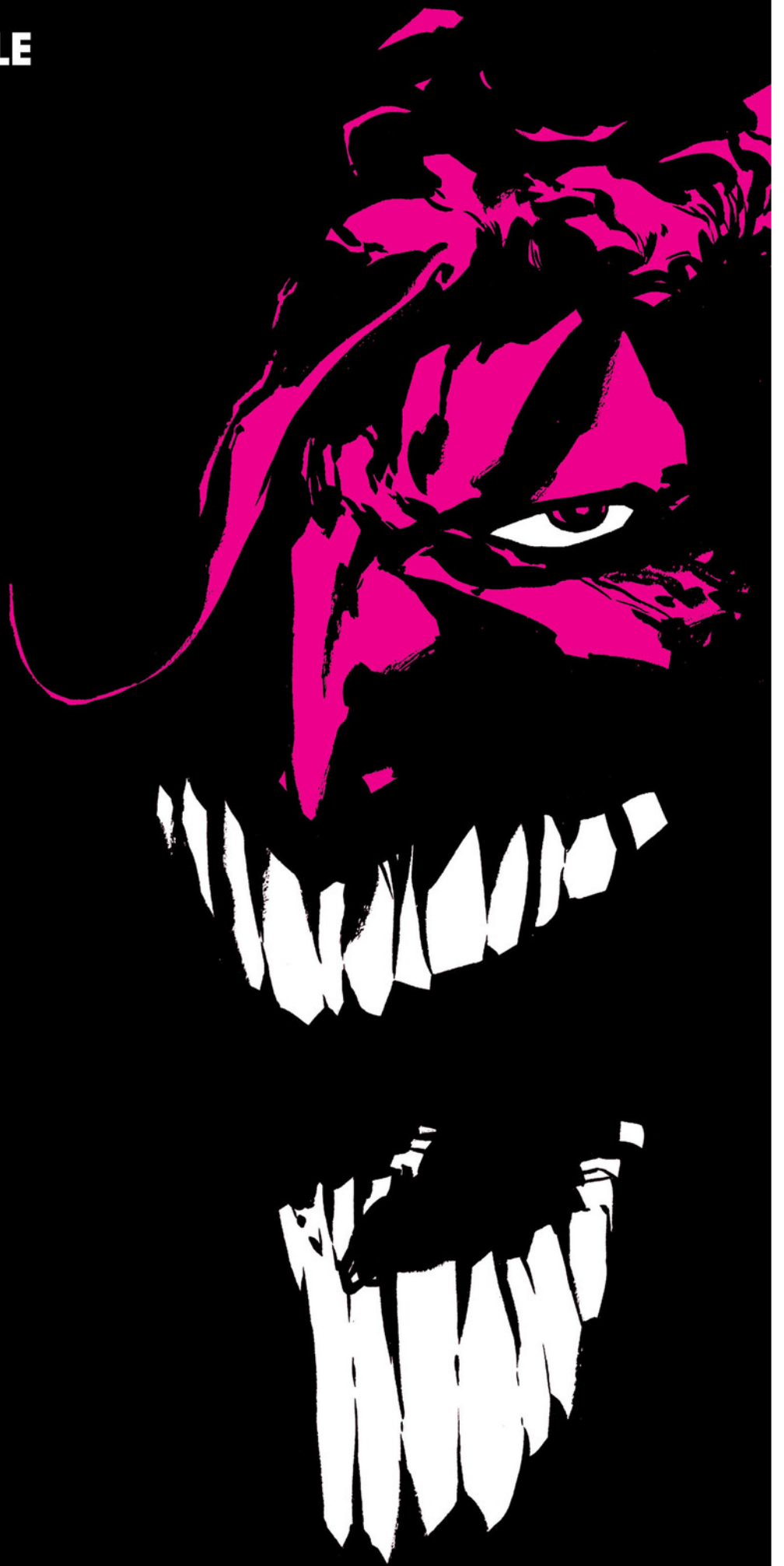


CHAPTER EIGHT **BATTLE**





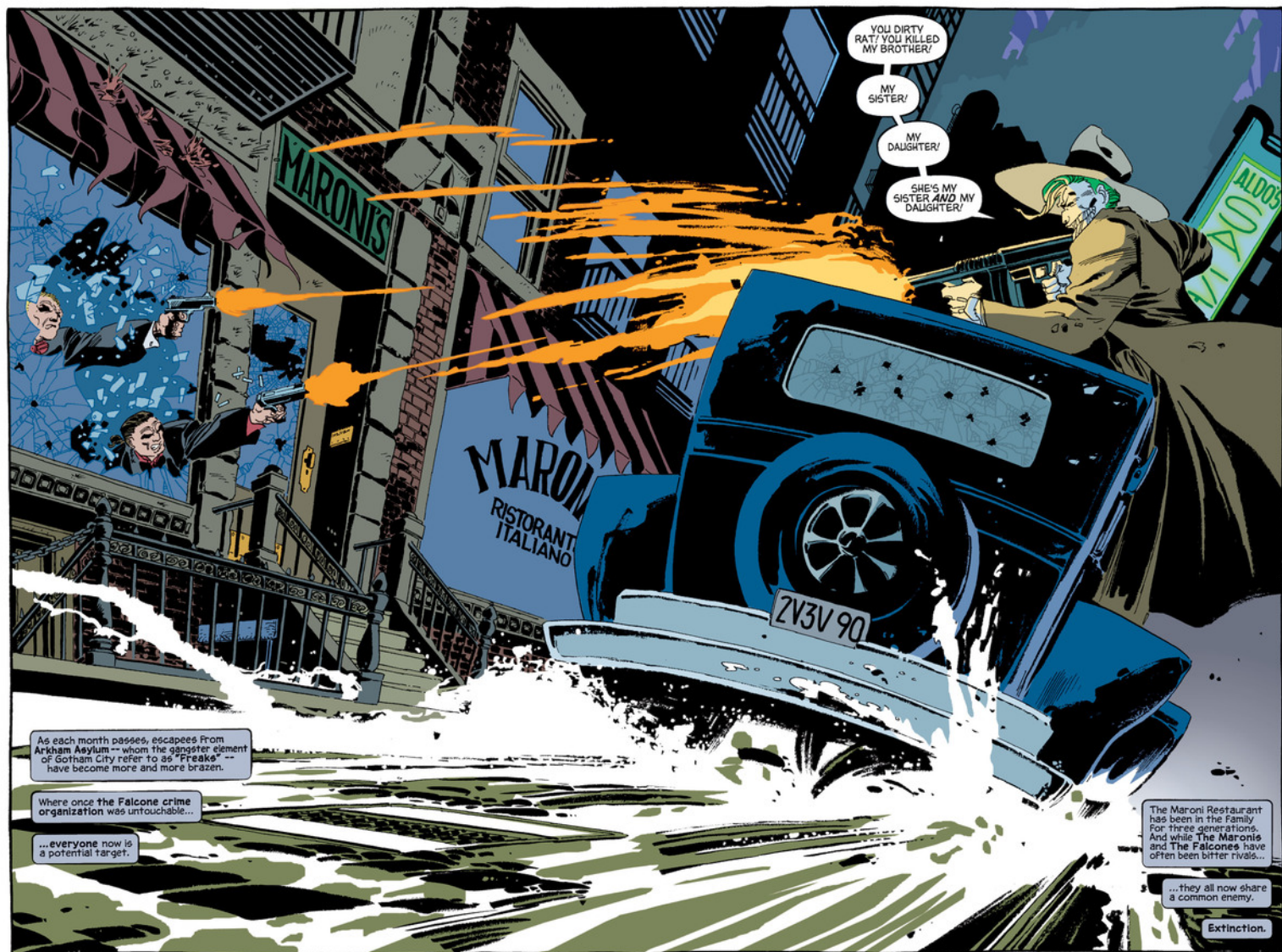
LOOK
AT ME,
MA!

TOP
OF THE
WORLD!

As of 12:01 this
morning, it is
Mother's Day
in Gotham City.

Despite all my other
responsibilities, I had
planned on visiting
my mother's grave.

The Joker,
however,
has taken
priority.



YOU DIRTY
RAT! YOU KILLED
MY BROTHER!

MY
SISTER!

MY
DAUGHTER!

SHE'S MY
SISTER AND MY
DAUGHTER!

As each month passes, escapees from
Arkham Asylum -- whom the gangster element
of Gotham City refer to as "Freaks" --
have become more and more brazen.

Where once the Falcone crime
organization was untouchable...

...everyone now is
a potential target.

The Maroni Restaurant
has been in the family
for three generations.
And while the Maronis
and the Falcones have
often been bitter rivals...

...they all now share
a common enemy.

Extinction.



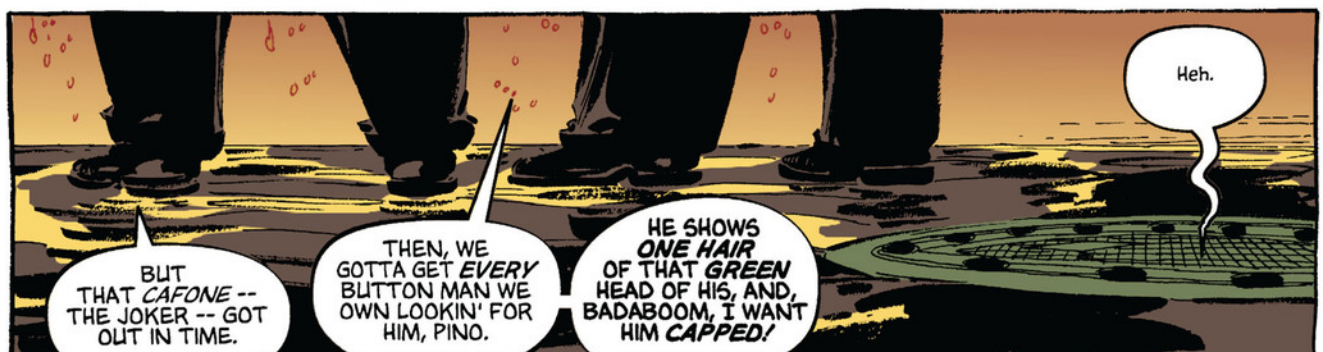
MOTHER OF
MERCY --

-- IS THIS
THE END
OF...



ANYBODY..?

NAW,
LIMBERTO --
THE FOUR MOOKS
INSIDE THE CAR
BOUGHT IT.

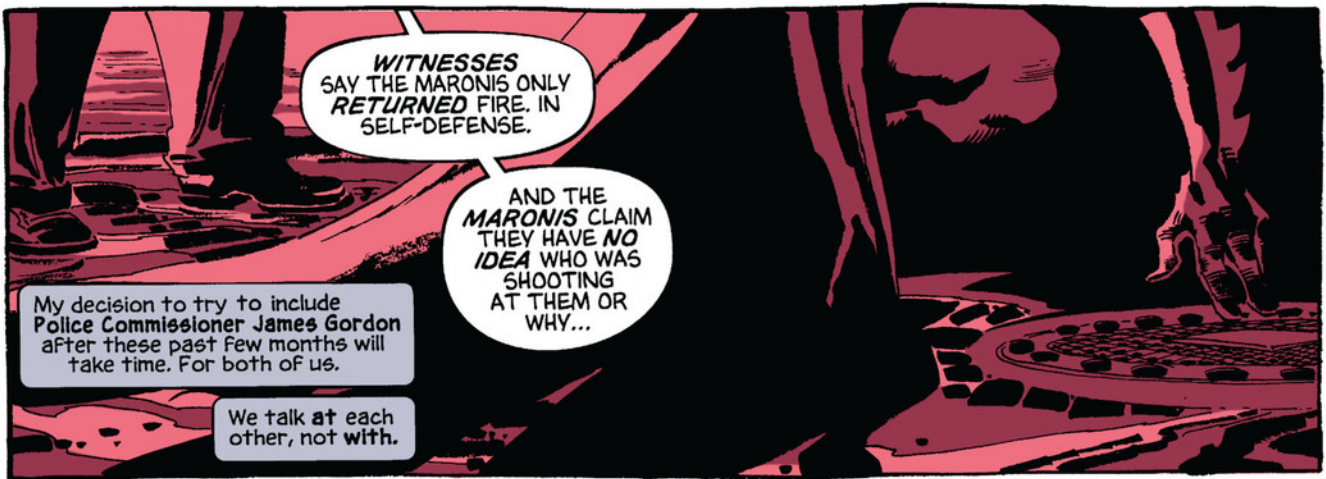


BUT
THAT CAFONE --
THE JOKER -- GOT
OUT IN TIME.

THEN, WE
GOTTA GET *EVERY*
BUTTON MAN WE
OWN LOOKIN' FOR
HIM, PINO.

HE SHOWS
ONE HAIR
OF THAT *GREEN*
HEAD OF HIS, AND,
BADABOOM, I WANT
HIM *CAPPED!*

Heh.



WITNESSES
SAY THE MARONIS ONLY
RETURNED FIRE. IN
SELF-DEFENSE.

AND THE
MARONIS CLAIM
THEY HAVE NO
IDEA WHO WAS
SHOOTING
AT THEM OR
WHY...

My decision to try to include
Police Commissioner James Gordon
after these past few months will
take time. For both of us.

We talk **at** each
other, not **with**.



The Joker,
however, is
our priority.

THEY'RE
USING THE
SEWER
SYSTEM.

WHAT...?

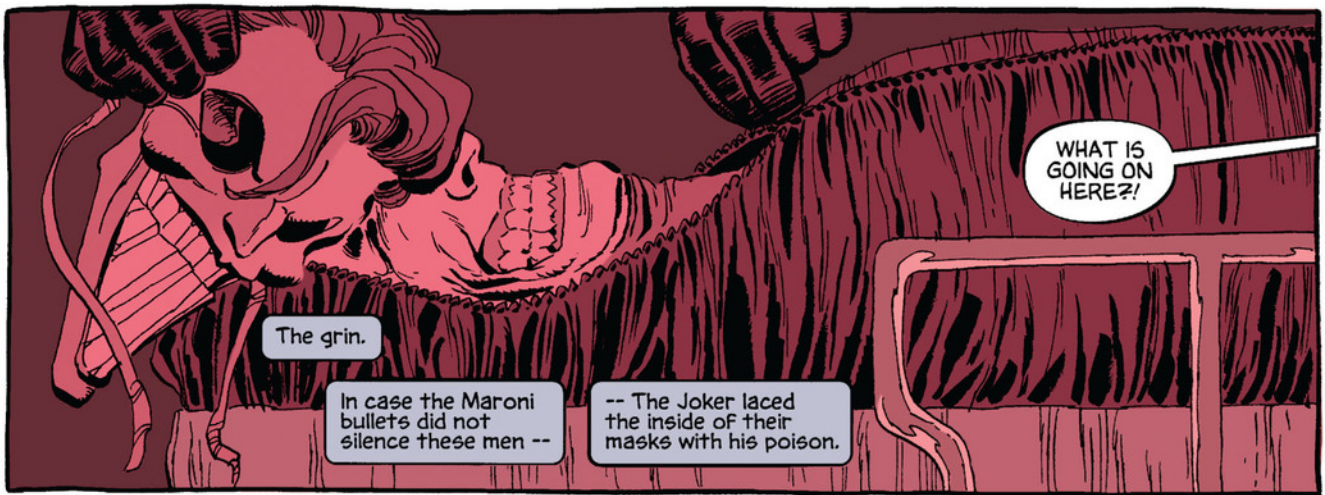
THE JOKER.
GRUNDY.
TWO-FACE.

IT EVEN EXPLAINS
HOW THE SCARECROW
ESCAPED ON CHRISTMAS EVE.
THE SEWER LINES EMPTY
OUT ON THE RIVER.



GOOD
LORD...

...THEY'RE
WORKING
TOGETHER.



WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?!

The grin.

In case the Maroni bullets did not silence these men --

-- The Joker laced the inside of their masks with his poison.



YOU'RE UP AWFULLY EARLY, PORTER. OR IS IT UP LATE...?

AND I DON'T THINK YOU'VE ACTUALLY MET --



HE'S **SMALLER** THAN I THOUGHT HE'D BE.



THIS IS AN **ONGOING** INVESTIGATION.

HIS **PRESENCE** HERE HELPS SOLVE CRIMES. LET THE MAN DO HIS JOB.

JUST HIS **PRESENCE** HERE CONTAMINATES THE CRIME SCENE.

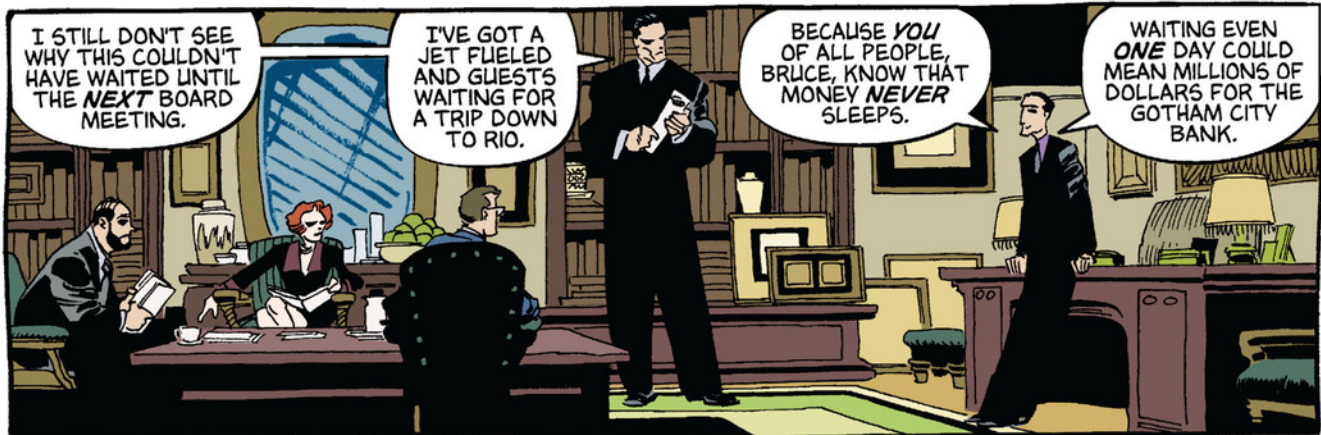
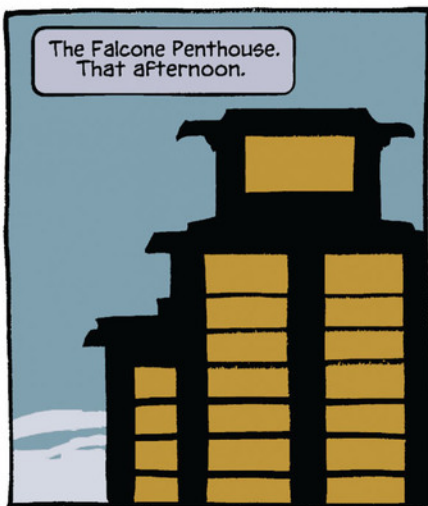
LET ME DO MINE!



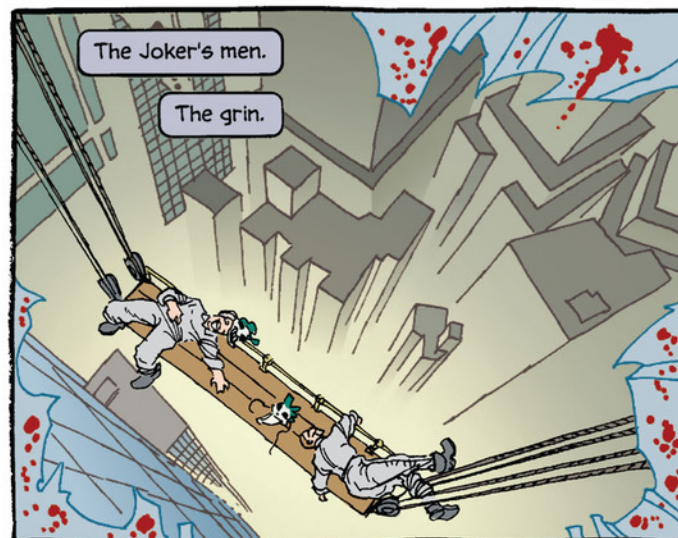
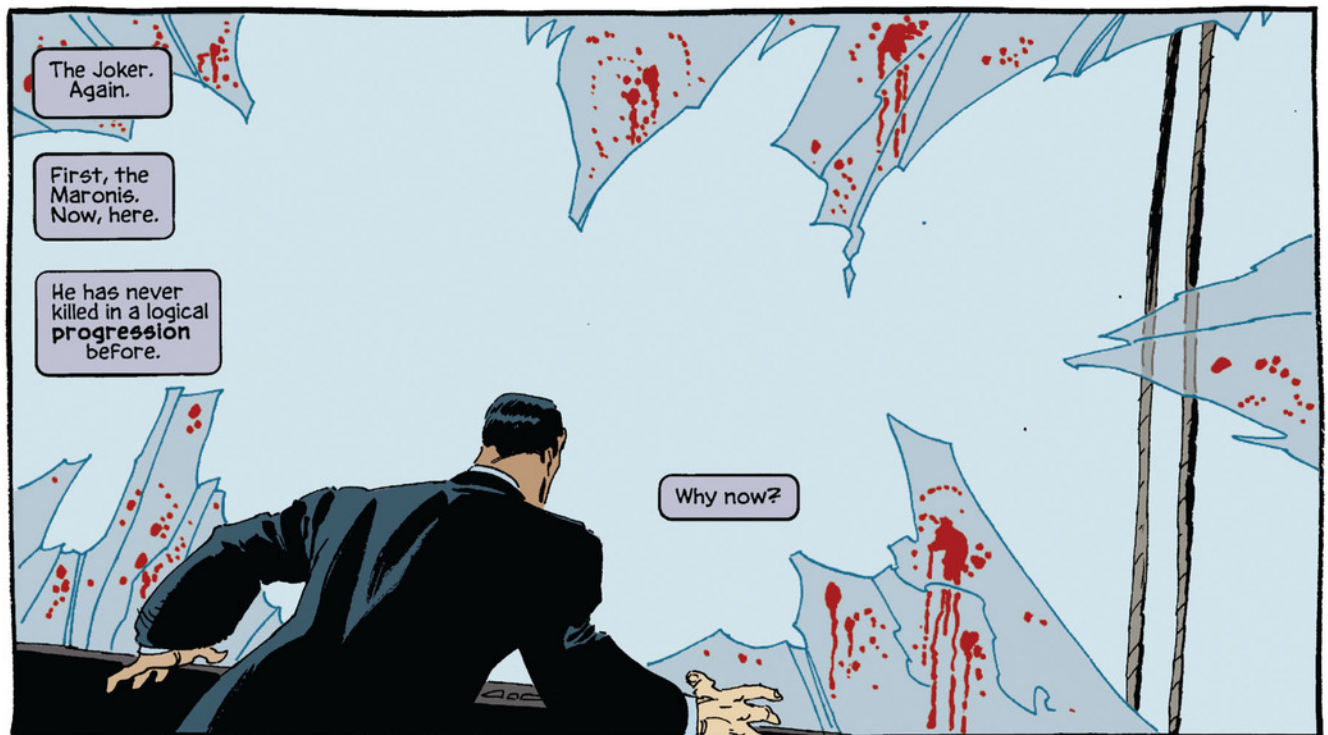
I **SAW** HIM TAKE EVID--

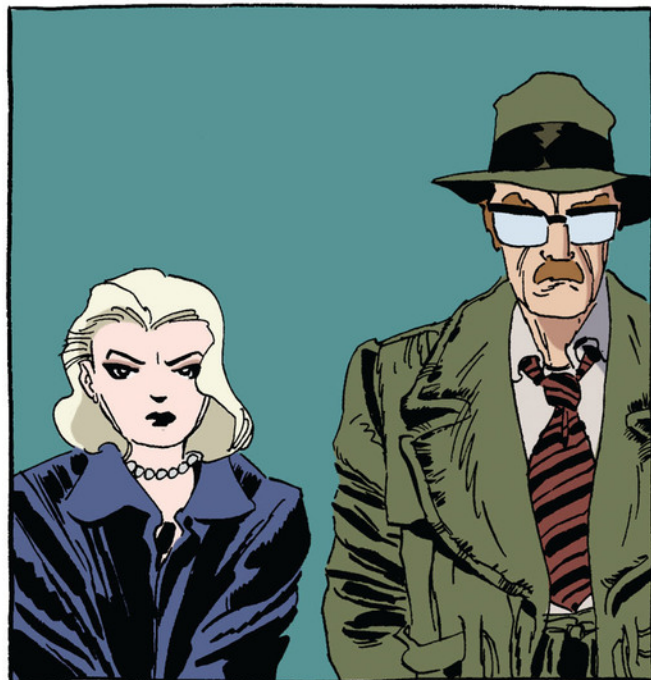
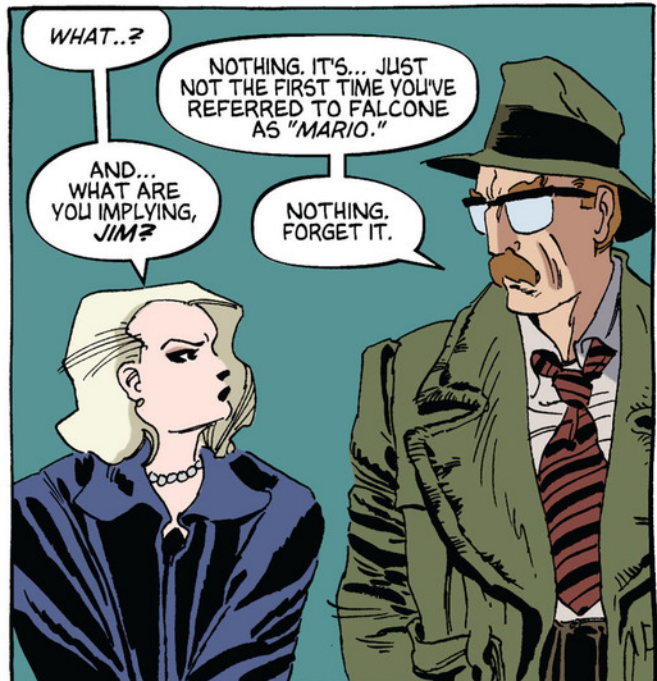
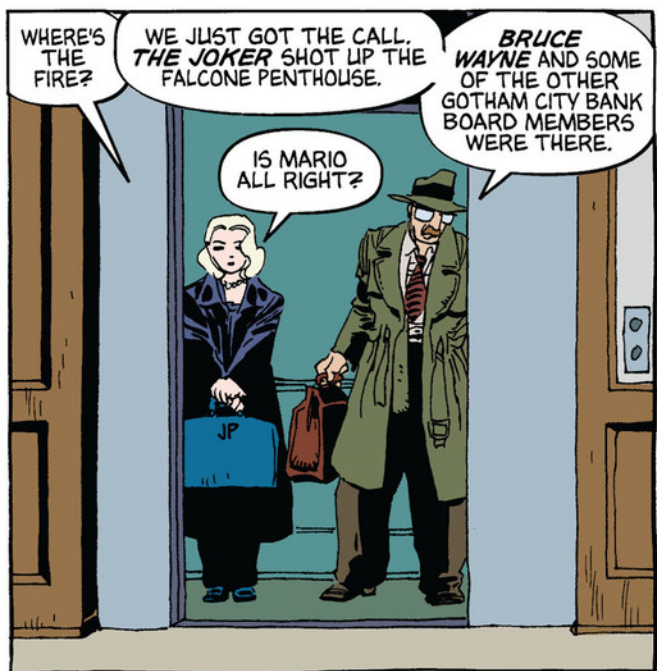
-- HE'S **GONE**.

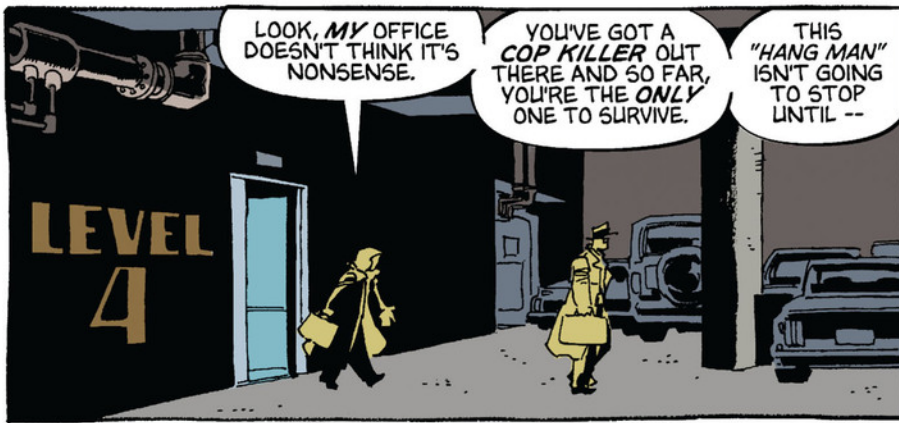
Hmm... AND HE **USUALLY** SAYS A POLITE "GOODBYE."

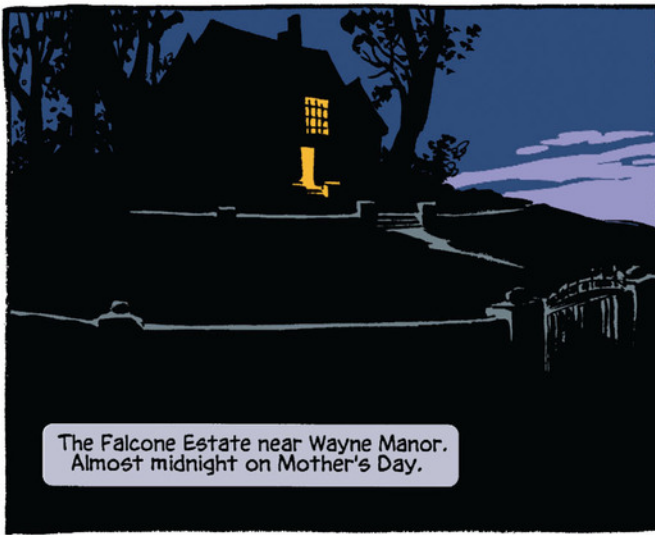




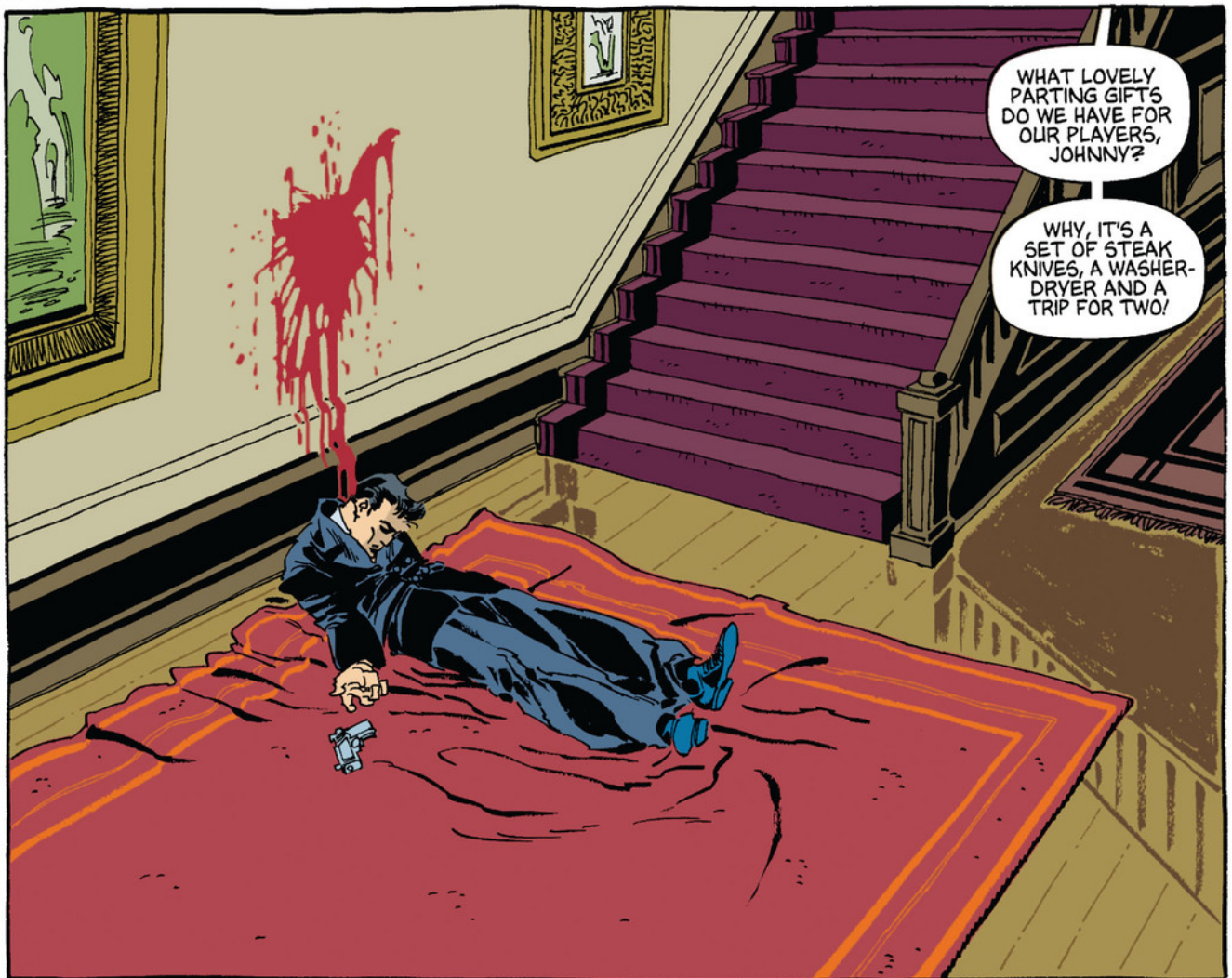








The Falcone Estate near Wayne Manor.
Almost midnight on Mother's Day.



WHAT LOVELY
PARTING GIFTS
DO WE HAVE FOR
OUR PLAYERS,
JOHNNY?

WHY, IT'S A
SET OF STEAK
KNIVES, A WASHER-
DRYER AND A
TRIP FOR TWO!



LET GO OF
ME, YOU SICK
BASTARD!





On the night of her father's murder, **Sofia Falcone Gigante** fell from his penthouse balcony.



Her injuries now confine her to a wheelchair. A head brace limits her every movement.



She cannot even go to the bathroom without the aid of her bodyguard, **Angelo "Killer" Mirti**.

MR. MIRT!

GET ME MY GUN.

MR. MIRT!

MR. MIRT!



NOW... CALL ME
"CRAZY" --

-- OKAY,
YOU'RE CRAZY.

BUT, I
THINK YOU
CAN GET
UP.

SO, TELL
YA WHAT I'M
GONNA DO.

I'LL COUNT TO
"THREE" AND IF YOU CAN
REACH THAT GUN, I'LL GIVE
YOU FIRST SHOT.

OTHERWISE --

-- I BLOW
YOUR HEAD OFF.



ONNNNE.



TWOOOOO.



C'MON.
BE A MAN.
GET UP.

THR--

BLAM





Alberto Falcone was "Holiday."

This serial killer held Gotham City in his grasp for nearly a year.

His identity was unknown. Only that he struck on holidays using a .22 caliber handgun.



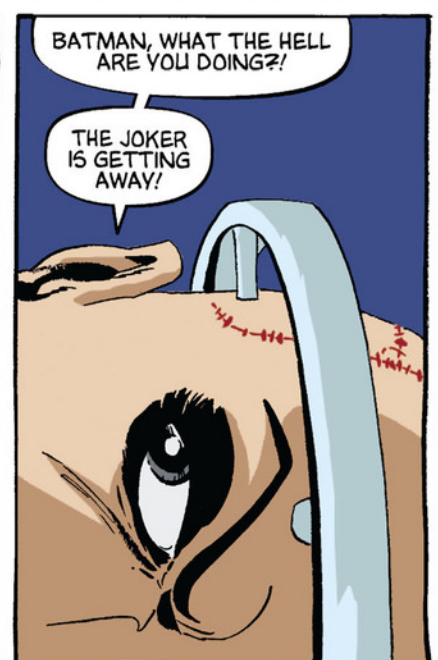
I WARNED YOU BACK IN ARKHAM --

-- I'D BE WATCHING YOU...

He should have gone to the electric chair.



...WAITING FOR THE DAY YOU'D PICK UP THAT GUN AGAIN.



BATMAN, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!

THE JOKER IS GETTING AWAY!



JOKER!

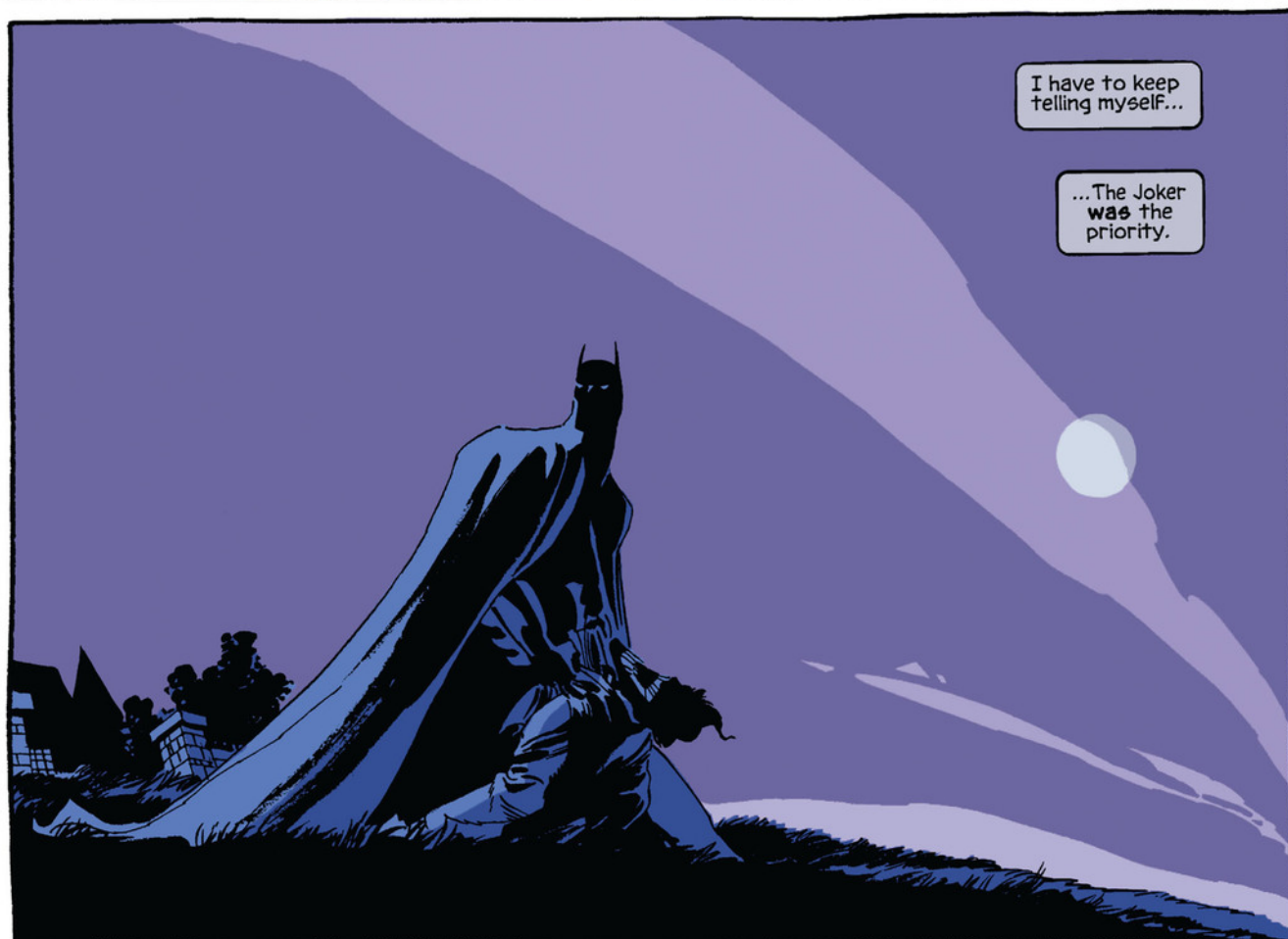


LURKE

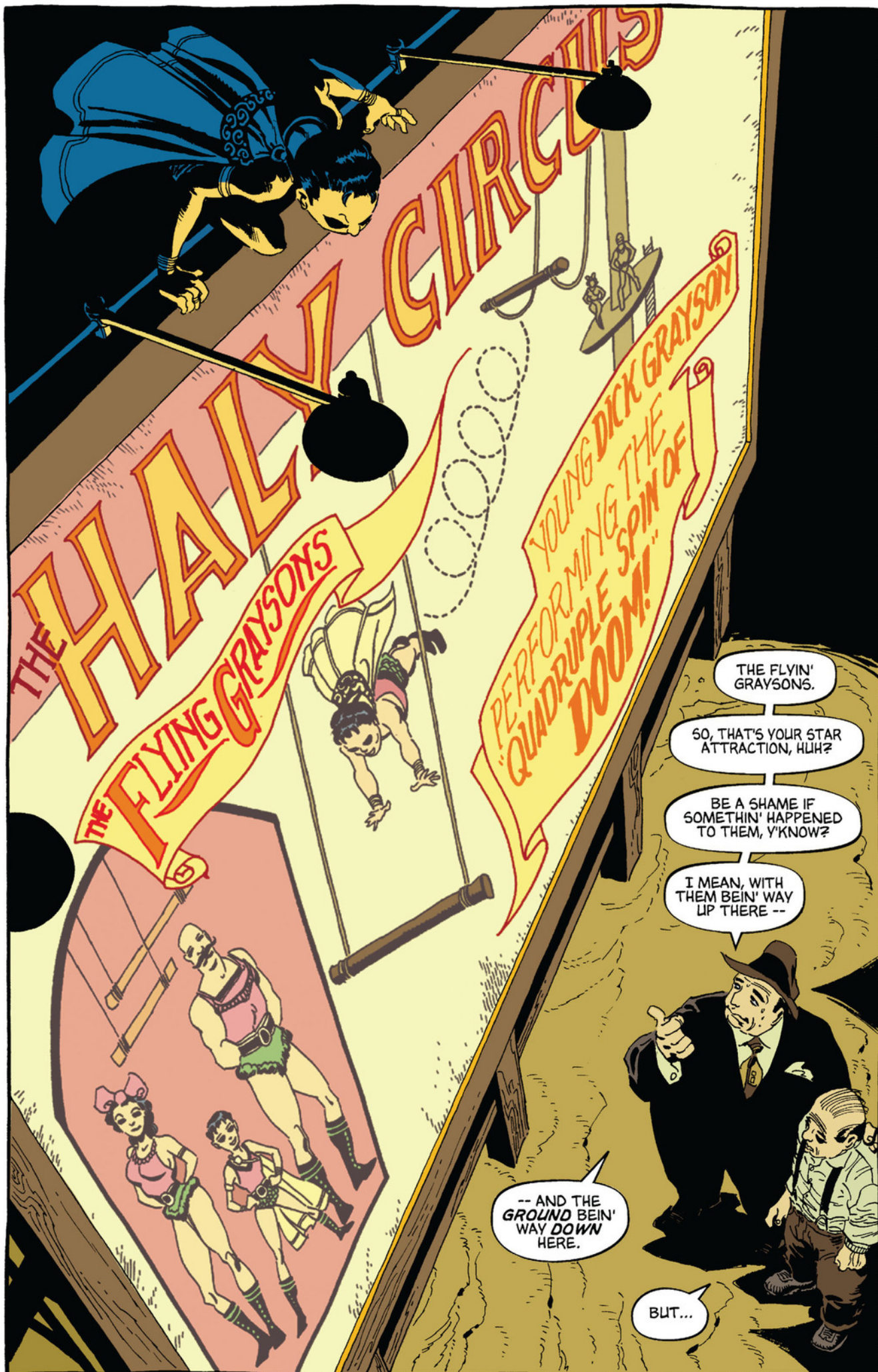
AND HERE I
WAS, THINKING
I'D BE HOME IN
TIME TO HAVE
DINNER WITH
MA.



WHY?







THE FLYIN'
GRAYSONS.

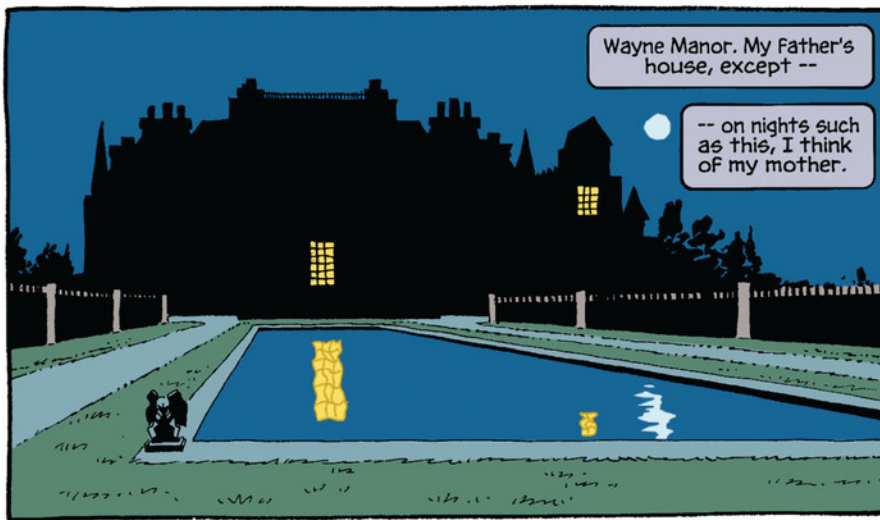
SO, THAT'S YOUR STAR
ATTRACTION, HUH?

BE A SHAME IF
SOMETHIN' HAPPENED
TO THEM, Y'KNOW?

I MEAN, WITH
THEM BEIN' WAY
UP THERE --

-- AND THE
GROUND BEIN'
WAY DOWN
HERE.

BUT...

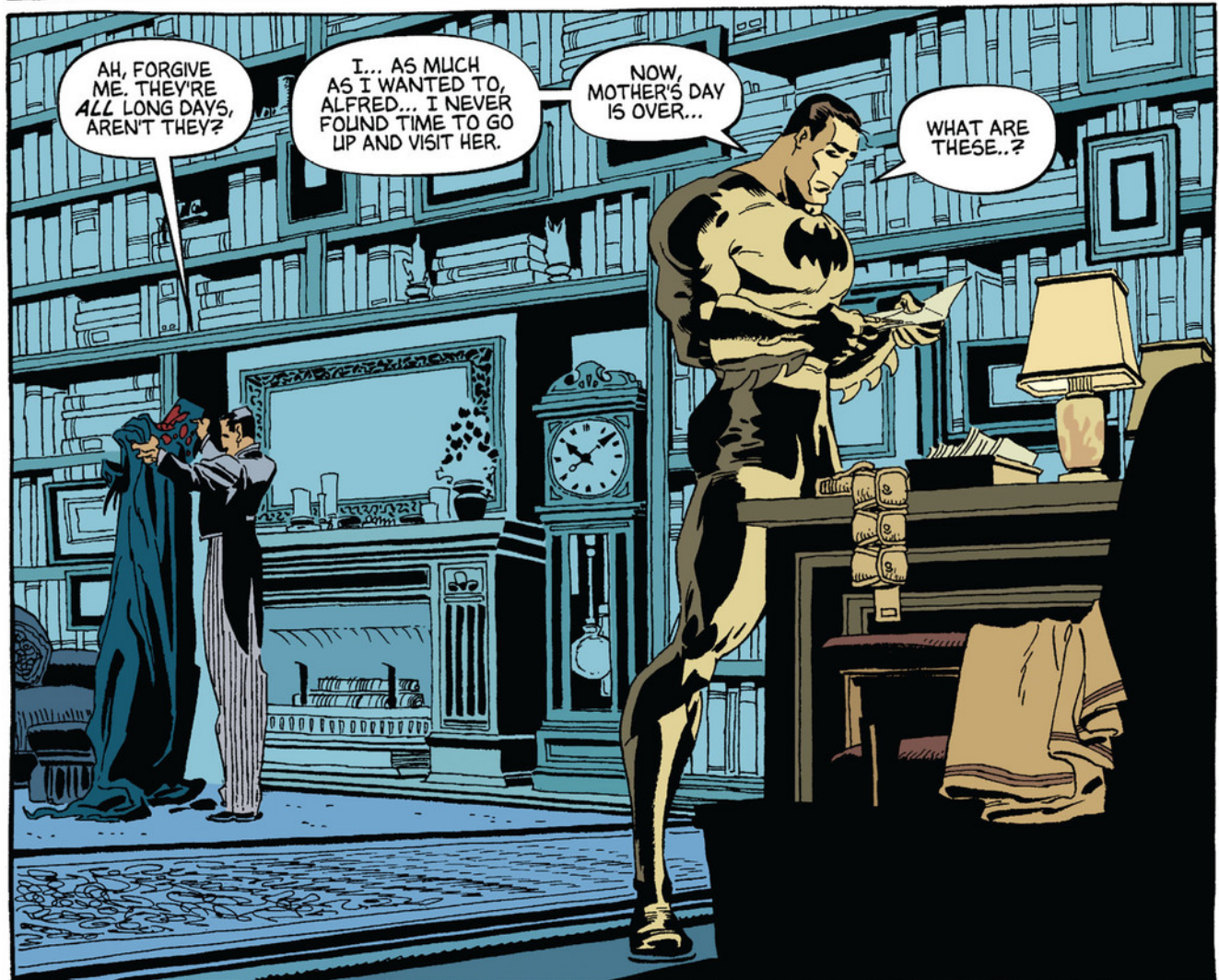


Wayne Manor. My Father's house, except --

-- on nights such as this, I think of my mother.



LONG DAY, SIR?

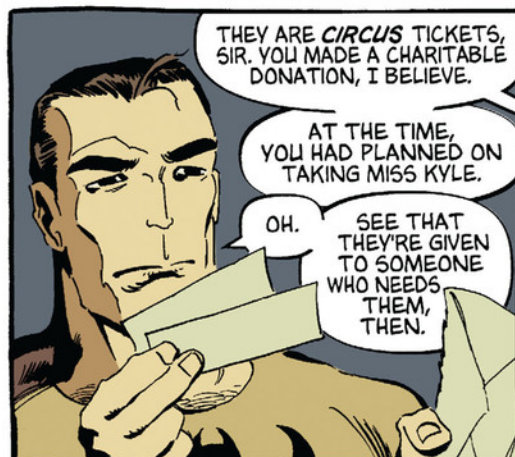


AH, FORGIVE ME. THEY'RE ALL LONG DAYS, AREN'T THEY?

I... AS MUCH AS I WANTED TO, ALFRED... I NEVER FOUND TIME TO GO UP AND VISIT HER.

NOW, MOTHER'S DAY IS OVER...

WHAT ARE THESE..?

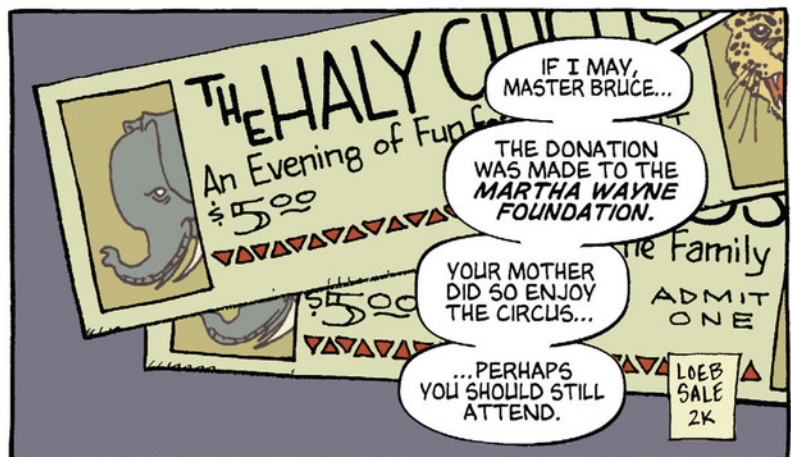


THEY ARE *CIRCUS* TICKETS, SIR. YOU MADE A CHARITABLE DONATION, I BELIEVE.

AT THE TIME, YOU HAD PLANNED ON TAKING MISS KYLE.

OH.

SEE THAT THEY'RE GIVEN TO SOMEONE WHO NEEDS THEM, THEN.



IF I MAY, MASTER BRUCE...

THE DONATION WAS MADE TO THE MARTHA WAYNE FOUNDATION.

YOUR MOTHER DID SO ENJOY THE CIRCUS...

...PERHAPS YOU SHOULD STILL ATTEND.

ADMIT ONE

LOBBY SALE 2K

